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U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
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Portland, OR 97205

The Willamette River contamination should have been cleaned up long before now. That being said, I don't think the plan the EPA currently proposes is the right approach to getting it done. Their plan is extremely costly for one. There are many things, including our homeless problem in Portland, that those millions of dollars could be spent to improve. The taxpayers of Portland are the ones who will have to pay this bill. I can't afford to see another increase in taxes. My husband and I are on a fixed income and though we are at a point that we can manage, we certainly don't have a lot left over to pay another tax.

Fixing this situation in a manner that will sufficiently remove the contamination while taking care of citizens can be done. We cannot, however, do that by following a plan based on information that does not accurately reflect the current condition of the river. Since the EPA collected its original data back in the early 2000's, the river has begun naturally removing the contamination. If the river is correcting itself, it should be allowed to do so with as little input from humans as necessary. We should not be invading mother nature's process to the point that we're simply pushing all of that pollution and contamination back to the surface and out into the air.

The best way to go with this whole thing would be to find a way that will remove the big black Superfund X from the Portland Harbor quickly. Anytime an area is marked with this designation, it hurts the economy and the longer it's there, the worse it gets. The sooner we can get the contamination problem in the Willamette taken care of, the better. We should have already started, if not completed, this project. We're slowing our own city's growth and stopping it from flourishing like it could by not getting this resolved. However, we need a better solution, not one based on outdated data. It's time to get on the ball and consider all the options available to us.

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